

2010 mid-season report



20th Avenue overpass opens–Jacob Morth of Warning Lites, Inc., Appleton, removes barricades to open the 20th Avenue overpass in Oshkosh on June 18.

“So far, so good.”

Planning began decades ago. Design and real estate acquisition got underway in 2005. And now, more than half-way through 2010, the US 41 Project construction is in full-swing in Winnebago County and is starting to get off the ground in Brown County.

“So far so good,” said Mike Berg, Northeast Regional Director for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT).

“As motorists in Oshkosh are well aware, the Winnebago portion of the project is fully engaged,” Berg said, adding that Brown County will see more construction activity from now until Thanksgiving. The entire project will be under construction until 2017, he said.

Berg explained that all construction is planned in stages to minimize traffic disruption. Right now in Winnebago County, the projects at the WIS 76 interchange, and the 20th Ave. and Snell Road overpasses have recently wrapped up, and each is again open to traffic. Still to come this year in Winnebago County, the Witzel Avenue overpass

that is now under construction will open in early September, and construction will continue at the US 45 interchange. Crews will also be preparing sections of the mainline US 41 for paving in Winnebago County for the duration of this construction season.

In Brown County, work on the Scheuring Road interchange is getting underway right now and will continue through the fall. Roundabouts are being installed at the intersections of Scheuring Road and Lawrence Drive and Scheuring Road and Mid Valley Drive. These roundabouts will be fully operational this fall.

A quick peek ahead to the 2011 construction season looks even busier, Berg said. In Winnebago County, all three segments of US 41 will be under construction, from WIS 26 to WIS 21, from WIS 21 to WIS 45 and from US 45 to Breezewood Lane. In Brown County, the section from Orange Lane to Glory Road, which includes the Scheuring Road Interchange, will be under construction. Also in Brown County in 2011, the Shawano Avenue/Taylor Street intersection will be rebuilt, and a new frontage road constructed south of WIS 29 between County J and Packerland Drive.

For more information and for the latest on traffic impacts, visit www.US41wisconsin.gov.

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Choose lane *before* the roundabout

Roundabouts being built as part of the US 41 Project go from theoretical to practical this year as several of them open to traffic. That's in addition to other roundabouts opening throughout the Northeast Region. While it is generally accepted that there is a learning curve for motorists, Randy Asman, WisDOT Traffic Engineer, says that the basics are pretty simple.



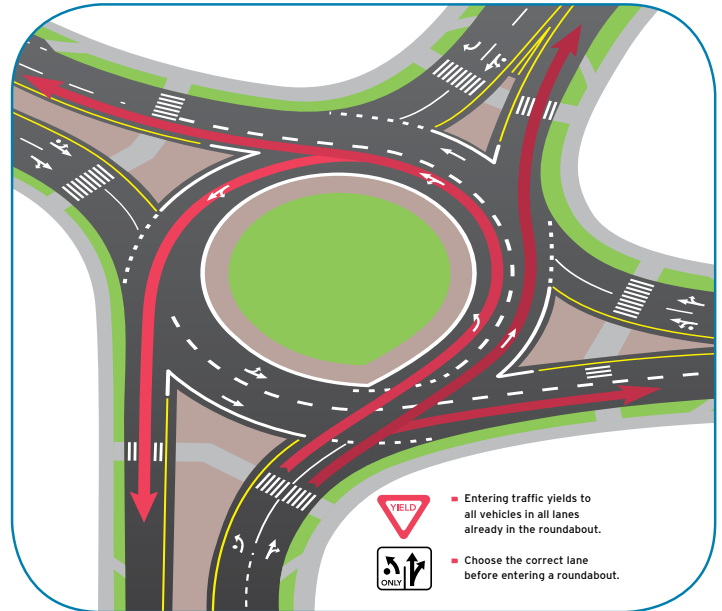
Randy Asman
WisDOT Traffic Engineer

"It's just very important that you choose the proper lane

before you get into the roundabout," Asman said. "And, before you get too worried about which lane to be in, it's probably going to be the same lane you would use were it a signalized intersection. Just like a traffic signal, if you want to turn left, get in the left lane. If you want to turn right, get in the right lane. If you want to go straight through, then look at the pavement marking and signing over the road."

Asman noted that lane instructions for roundabouts are well signed. Approaching the intersection, there are signs above the road, on both sides of the road, and arrows painted on the road itself. It forces drivers to pay attention, Asman said, which is one of the reasons why roundabouts are safer than signalized intersections. "More attentive driving, slower speeds and fewer conflict points...All those things combined make roundabouts safer than conventional (signalized) intersections," he said.

Pedestrians will look left, cross half the roadway, stop in the "splitter island," look right, then finish the crossing. State law requires motorists to yield to pedestrians



whether the crosswalk is marked or unmarked, he said. Bicyclists can either ride through the roundabout as a vehicle or get off and walk their bike as a pedestrian.

Asman asked for a little patience from drivers getting used to roundabouts. "Give it a few months or a year after the entire project is complete, and I think you'll find roundabouts are a very safe and efficient way to move traffic," he said.

For more information about roundabouts and how to safely navigate them, visit www.US41wisconsin.gov and click on "Overview" then "Special Project Features."

Roundabouts Opening in 2010

The following roundabouts will be opening in 2010 as part of the US 41 Project:

Brown County:

- Scheuring Road at Lawrence Drive and Mid Valley Drive

Winnebago County:

- US 45 at Fernau Avenue and Lake Butte des Morts Drive
- Witzel Avenue at Koeller Street and Washburn Street

Give them a brake with Wisconsin Rideshare

We've all seen signs in construction zones that say, "Give 'em a brake." We all recognize the gentle reminder that when there are orange barrels, slow down and be mindful of construction workers. Slowing down reduces the risk of crashes and injury between drivers and construction workers. So how about "giving them a brake" by doing your part to reduce congestion? The Wisconsin Rideshare program will help you find your carpool matches. The more carpools, the less congestion, reducing the risk of a crash or personal injury in the construction zone.



FEELIN' BETTER ALREADY!

The Wisconsin Rideshare program, www.rideshare.wi.gov, is online and interactive so you can immediately contact a potential carpool partner. And the website

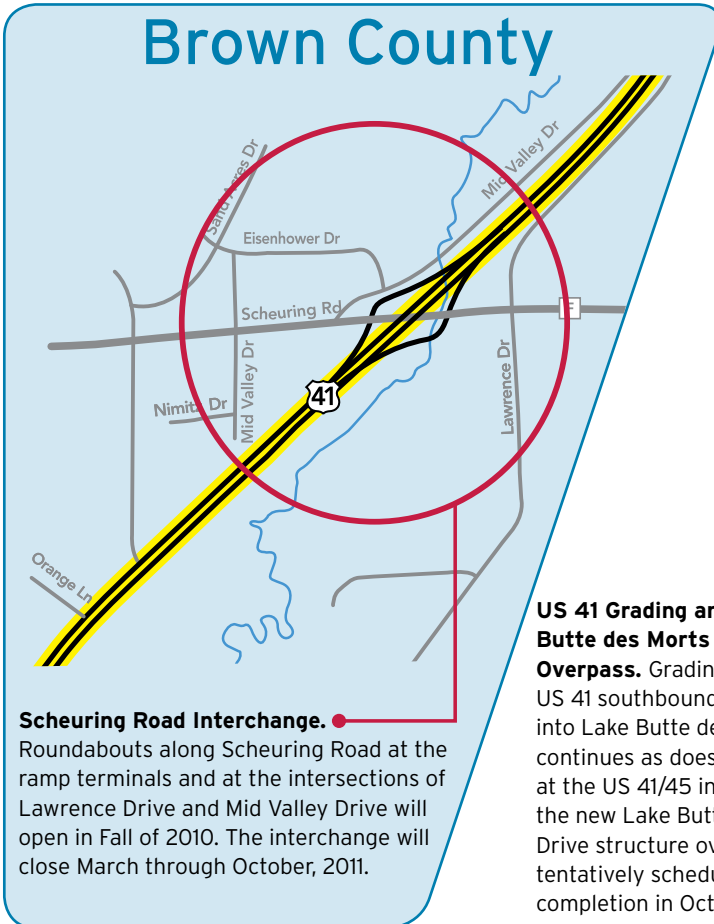
has a brand new look. Whether registering for the first time or checking your profile for new matches, the website is easier than ever to navigate and find your matches. Your new match page will give you your prospective contacts and a map showing the origins and destinations of those matches.

Save gas, wear and tear on your car...and maybe even the life of another commuter or a construction worker by ridesharing. Check out the no obligation program at www.rideshare.wi.gov. Who knows, there might be a whole new commuting experience awaiting you.

Construction outlook

For complete project details, closures and traffic impacts visit www.US41wisconsin.gov

Brown County



Scheuring Road Interchange.

Roundabouts along Scheuring Road at the ramp terminals and at the intersections of Lawrence Drive and Mid Valley Drive will open in Fall of 2010. The interchange will close March through October, 2011.

US 41 Grading and Lake Butte des Morts Drive Overpass.

Grading of new US 41 southbound roadway into Lake Butte des Morts continues as does grading at the US 41/45 interchange; the new Lake Butte des Morts Drive structure over US 41 tentatively scheduled for completion in October 2010.

9th Avenue Interchange.

Construction of interchange and four multi-lane roundabouts on 9th Avenue will continue through 2011; the bridge over US 41 and the northbound entrance and exit ramps are scheduled to be open by July 16, 2011 in time for the EAA AirVenture.

WIS 44 structure over US 41.

Painting of structure continues through fall of 2011. Some nighttime lane closures may occur.

Remember:

- Speed zones are reduced in some construction zones... schedule extra time.
- Fines are double in construction zones.



Winnebago County

US 41 from US 45 to Breezewood Lane.

Northbound lane widening and Breezewood Lane Interchange reconstruction (July 2010 to September 2012). Breezewood Lane Interchange to close in 2011. Mainline paving work scheduled for 2011.

US 45 Interchange.

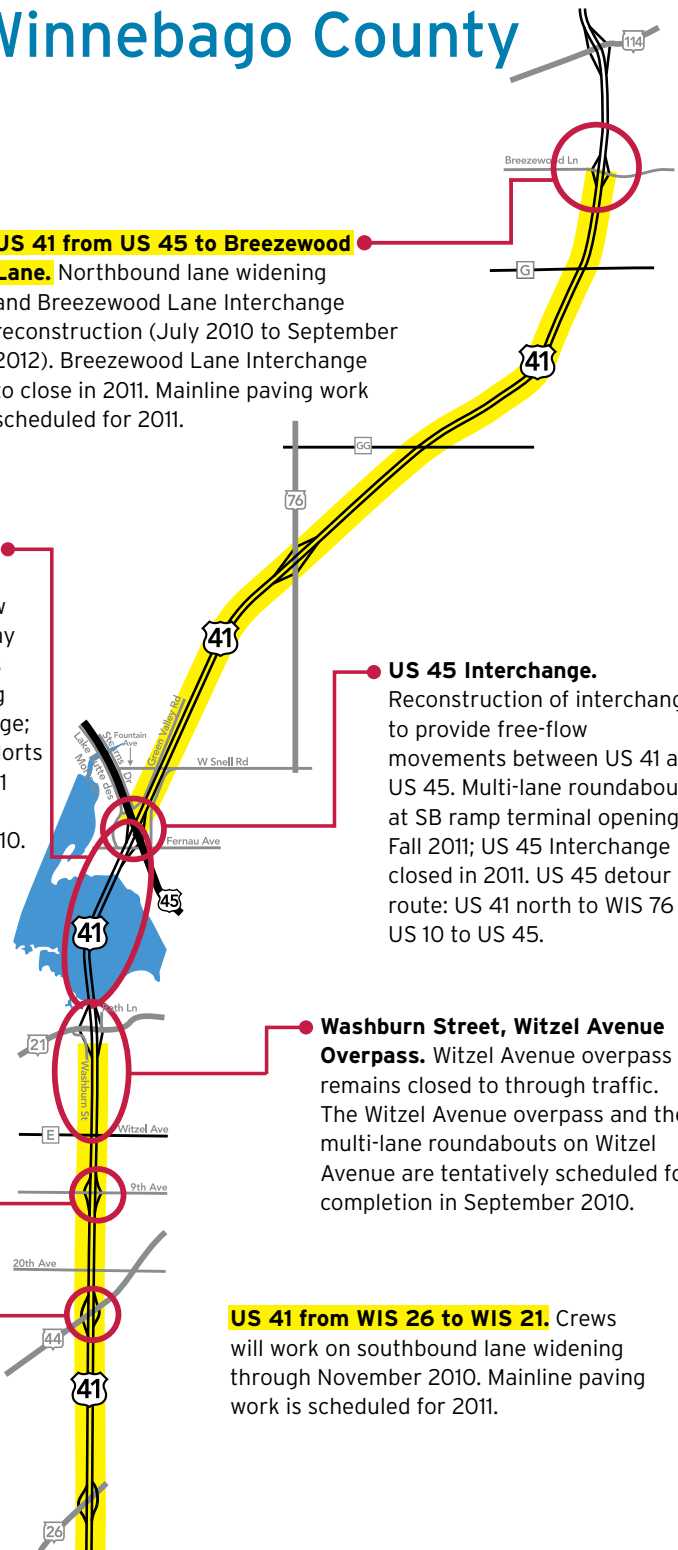
Reconstruction of interchange to provide free-flow movements between US 41 and US 45. Multi-lane roundabout at SB ramp terminal opening Fall 2011; US 45 Interchange closed in 2011. US 45 detour route: US 41 north to WIS 76 to US 10 to US 45.

Washburn Street, Witzel Avenue Overpass.

Witzel Avenue overpass remains closed to through traffic. The Witzel Avenue overpass and the multi-lane roundabouts on Witzel Avenue are tentatively scheduled for completion in September 2010.

US 41 from WIS 26 to WIS 21.

Crews will work on southbound lane widening through November 2010. Mainline paving work is scheduled for 2011.





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► Summer–Fall 2010

Rules for driving roundabouts

Steps for driving a roundabout

- Slow down. Obey traffic signs.
- Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Yield to traffic on your left already in the roundabout.
- Enter the roundabout when there is a safe gap in traffic.
- Keep your speed low within the roundabout and stay in your lane.
- As you approach your exit, turn on your right turn signal.
- Yield to pedestrians and bicycles as you exit.

Driving a roundabout with two or more lanes

- Observe and obey the signs and arrows to determine which lane to use before entering a roundabout.
- Black and white signs on the side of the road and white arrows on the road will show the correct lane to use.
- To make a left turn, be in the left lane or other lanes that are signed and marked as left turn lanes.
- To make a right turn, be in the right lane or other lanes that are signed and marked as right turn lanes.
- To go straight, observe the signs and arrows to see what lane is correct.

[More on roundabouts - page 2](#)



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